



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

*86 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007*

September 4, 2019

VIA Fax and ECF

Hon. Nelson Román
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
300 Quarropas Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Re: *Congregation of Ridnik et al. v. Village of Airmont et al.*,
No. 18 Civ. 11533 (NSR)

Dear Judge Román:

I write respectfully on behalf of the United States to inform the Court that the Government is currently evaluating whether it intends to file a Statement of Interest pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 517¹ in the above-referenced matter. As the Court may be aware, the Village of Airmont has been the subject of much prior, long-running litigation brought by the United States arising out of the Village's pattern and practice of unlawfully discriminating against its Hasidic residents. The Department of Justice has continued to monitor third-party litigation involving Airmont and to make inquiries into the Village's present practices, including the zoning amendments at issue in the present matter.

Specifically, the Government has an interest in ensuring that the United States' positions in prior litigation concerning Airmont are accurately reflected in the current case, including, among other things, any characterization of the Government's views as to the lawfulness of Airmont's zoning amendments. Accordingly, and in light of the fact that the determination as to whether to file a Statement of Interest is subject to a formal review process, the Government respectfully requests that it be provided until September 30, 2019, to either submit a Statement of Interest in this matter or inform the Court of its intention not to submit a Statement of Interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

¹ "The Solicitor General, or any officer of the Department of Justice, may be sent by the Attorney General to any State or district in the United States to attend to the interests of the United States in a suit pending in a court of the United States, or in a court of a State, or to attend to any other interest of the United States."

Respectfully,

GEOFFREY S. BERMAN
United States Attorney

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cc: Counsel of record (by ECF)